

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 10 is accordingly in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6, 13-18, 20, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patti in view of Sedra/Smith.

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations relating to a pair of switch connected resistances which are connected to the head for steady state operation but are disconnected from the head during transitions between steady state. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Patti or Sedra/Smith for either the structural connection of the resistances or for their selective connection/disconnection as claimed. Claim 1 accordingly defines over the art of record. The method of operation recited in claim 16 defines over the prior art for at least the same reasons. Claim 22 is believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons, as well.

With respect to claim 24, Applicants claim that the control signals for activating the transistors and current sources have a minimum pulsewidth which is an inverse of the rate at which data is being written. A review of the examiner's rejection of claim 24 on page 4 of the office action fails to reveal any specific discussion by the examiner of how Patti meets the recited pulsewidth and inverse rate limitations. The Examiner cites generally to two full columns of disclosure in Patti (col. 8, line 10 to col. 10, line 10) and makes the general statement

that this teaches recited pulsewidth limitation. Such an un-focused citation in support of a rejection of a precise claim limitation is not permitted, and clearly does not establish the prima facie case. To the extent Patti teaches the claimed pulsewidth limitation, the Examiner should be able to more particularly focus the Applicants attention to specific signals and specific teachings in Patti which address the issue of pulsewidth and its relationship to the data write rate. Applicant accordingly respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner either more specifically identify how Patti meets the claim limitation or withdraw the rejection.

Interestingly, with respect to the rejection of claim 12, which includes a similar rate limitation (see, office action page 8), the Examiner concedes that neither Patti nor Sedra/Smith teaches control signals having a minimum pulse width approximately equal to the reciprocal of the data rate of the memory disk device. This statement by the Examiner completely contradicts the position taken by the Examiner in rejecting claim 24. This inconsistency in analysis should be explained by the Examiner so that the Applicants can understand why claims 12 and 24 are being treated differently.

With respect to the rejection of claim 12, the Examiner cites to Leighton ('800) col. 5, lines 12-32. The Examiner's reliance on this teaching is misplaced. The Leighton ('800) teaches pulse duration in relation to the propagation time of transmission lines 14 and 16. It is unclear to Applicants how this teaching is material or related to the specifically recited limitation which relates pulse width which is approximately equal to the reciprocal of the data rate of the memory disk device. The examiner has provided no explanation as to how transmission line propagation time is the same as memory disk device data rate in order to meet the prima facie case. Notably, Applicants made this same comment in response to the first office action, but the Examiner has

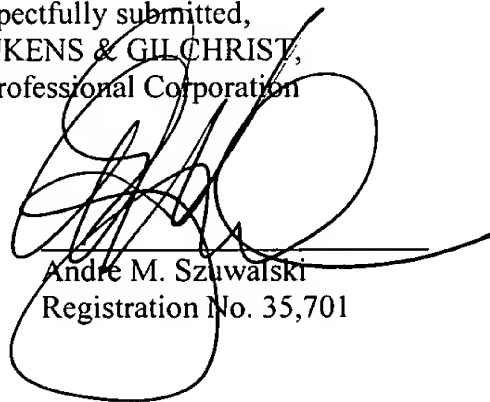
not provided any explanation or commentary in the present office action. Applicants again request that the Examiner explain how the cited portions of Leighton ('800) meet the specifically claimed limitations of claim 12. Otherwise, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 12 is requested.

Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patti in view of Lacombe ('246). Claim 9 has been amended to more specifically claim the interconnection of the resistances to the opposite ends of the write coil. The Lacombe resistances R3 and R4 fail to meet this recited interconnection. Allowance of claim 9 is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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